

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-27 are presented for consideration. Claims 1, 16-18 and 20 are independent.

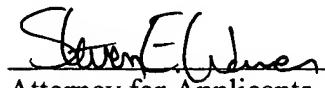
Claims 16-18 have been amended to clarify features of the subject invention, while claims 20-27 have been added to recite additional features of the subject invention. Support for these changes and claims can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Applicants submit that claims 20-27 patentably define features of the projection exposure apparatus of the present invention.

Applicants submit, therefore, that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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